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GERMANY SAYS SHIPS ARE SAFE

Not Endangered if They Carry Food to Civilian Population of Belligerents.

WARNING GIVEN TO ENGLAND

Tenton Admiralty Issues Statement Denying Paper Blockade Is in Force.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The German embassy declared in a statement issued today in regard to the decision placing the waters around the British Isles in the war zone that Germany "does not intend to molest or seize American vessels carrying foodstuffs for the civilian population of belligerent countries."

The statement expresses the hope that England will not make necessary a reconsideration of this attempt by seizing American ships like the *Wilhelmina*. The statement in full follows:

"The German ambassador has not received instructions regarding the decision of the German admiralty, but according to the text of the decision the following seems clear:

No Blockade.

"There is nothing new in the communication made February 4 by the German admiralty with respect to the attitude of the German imperial navy toward ships of the enemy or toward neutral countries. It is absurd to describe this as the proclamation of a paper blockade of the British Isles. The communication is simply a statement of what has been since the beginning of the war, the attitude of the navies of all the belligerent powers toward ships of the enemy."

"A few months ago the English admiralty claimed the closing of the North sea, the waters of which are essentially neutral. Germany does not profess to close even the English channel to neutral commerce and she does not intend to molest or seize American vessels laden with food" (Continued on last page.)

NEW BILLS ARE BY SOCIALISTS

Educational Institutions Would Be Consolidated and Some Abolished by Measures Introduced Today.

Socialists members of the house introduced two bills into the house this morning. One of them revises the old school abolition bill by proposing to discontinue a number of state educational institutions, and the other would put the state into the insurance business. Both are by Representatives McLemore and Hill of Roger Mills.

One of the bills would abolish five district schools of agriculture, both university preparatory schools, state normals at Ada, Weatherford and Durant and consolidate the school of mines with the state university.

The insurance bill would require the state insurance commissioner to write all insurance business now done by foreign and domestic companies and appropriate \$500,000 to carry the act into effect. The money, however, is to be loaned merely to start the insurance business. The state would collect all premiums and pay all losses, retaining 20 per cent of the gross receipts for operating expenses. All rates would be written at 10 per cent less than prevailing charges, according to the bill.

A new bill by Pullen provides for conservation of artesian water by requiring all flowing wells of water not used for irrigation to be capped.

SIX MINERS KILLED

Whereabouts of Four Is Unknown and Hundred and Sixty-eight Escape When Explosion Occurs.

FAYETTEVILLE, W. Va., Feb. 6.—One hundred and sixty-eight men were entombed today in the mine of the New River Coal company at Carlisle, near here, by an explosion. All but ten succeeded in making their way to the surface. They reported six of the men in the section where the explosion occurred had been killed but knew nothing of the other four. Rescuing parties were organized at once to search the works.

ILLINOIS CATTLE OWNERS ARE THE GREATEST LOSERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Agricultural department figures show Illinois owners of cattle have been the hardest hit by the foot and mouth disease. Up to January 1, 30,758 animals had been slaughtered in Illinois, valued at \$147,000.

With 17,806 animals killed, Pennsylvania was the next heaviest loss and Ohio third with 11,111.

Value of all animals slaughtered up to January 31 is estimated at \$3,400,000.

FORMER BANK CASHIER GETS A SENTENCE FOR FORGERY

LAWTON, Okla., Feb. 6.—Everett McPherson, once cashier of the bank at Elgin, has been convicted of forgery and sentenced to the penitentiary for six months. He was charged with having forged notes on H. S. Green for \$445.00 and when the bank was sold these notes were sold as assets of the bank, it was alleged.

THIEVES CODE BOOK

Head of Alleged Band of Automobile Stealers Arrested in Chicago; Have Sales Rooms.

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—With the arrest here today of John Blodgett, alleged head of a band of automobile thieves the police believed they had uncovered the thieves of several cars of automobiles which were sold to unsuspecting buyers.

A code book is supposed to show that automobile stealing is carried on by an organized band of thieves who have representatives and even sales rooms in many large cities—in the country.

The band, according to the police, maintained its principal office in Chicago. Code signs were used for the various makes and designs of cars, affording the best markets for certain makes and other details.

The code book the police said, contained a comparative list of second-hand dealers in other cities and directions as to the methods of altering the cars so they may not be recognized by the owners.

STOCK SHIPPING TO BE STOPPED

Interstate Transportation in East Ordered Ended by Washington on Account of Disease Danger.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—As the result of the discovery of the foot and mouth infection in Chicago, Indianapolis, Louisville, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Jersey City, Pittsburgh and Columbus, the department of agriculture today instructed its inspectors to close the yards in those cities to interstate shipment of livestock after shipments in transit had been disposed of.

An order containing details and declaring whether the yards will be permitted to continue to receive cattle for slaughter will be issued later.

As shipments in transit the inspectors were instructed to allow the livestock to go forward if they showed no symptoms of the disease had not been handled in infected pens and were destined for immediate slaughter in quarantined areas where federal inspection of meats is maintained.

Loss from the foot and mouth disease in the present outbreak thus far has aggregated \$3,399,110, the bureau of animal industry announced today in the agricultural outlook. The outbreak of the disease, the most extensive ever known in the United States, now seems to be under control as a result of the vigorous policy of eradication followed, the bureau states.

Twenty states and the District of Columbia have been more or less affected since last October. By January 31, the work of checking the disease was practically completed in all but seven states and further progress is being made continually. There have been slaughtered 46,268 cattle, 47,735 swine, 7,151 sheep and 22 goats. So far the losses are mainly local and have had no appreciable general effect on the country's total supply of meat and dairy animals.

(Continued on last page.)

WILL DIG INTO SCHOOL LOANS

House Calls On Examiner and Inspector For Facts on Roger Mills Loans.

ALSO KIOWA COUNTY DEALS

Language Did Not Suit Democrats in the House and Charges Were Made.

The house went on record this morning a second time as favoring an investigation of the school land department when it passed the resolution of Testerman of Nobles and Headley of Kay calling upon the examiner and inspector Fred Parkinson, for certain information relative to farm loans in Roger Mills and Kiowa counties.

Democratic leaders, however, pulled all the teeth from the resolution so far as the language was concerned, but left intact the portion of the resolution upon which Mr. Testerman insisted and that was asking for information on farm loans made under the previous administration of the state school land department.

When the resolution was called up this morning Representative Durant objected to the language which stated that house concurrent resolution No. 1, introduced at the beginning of the session by Representative Harrison of Seminole Democrat, and passed by the house, "is quietly sleeping in the senate," and calling on that body for action. Durant thought the language disrespectful to the senate and that the house should first ask for information relative to the status of the matter before criticizing that body.

Testerman agreed to let this language be stricken from the resolution and it was ordered by the house. Objection was then lodged by Paul Nestell of McAlester to the wording of the resolution which referred to "crooked loans," and upon his request and the consent of the author the word "crooked" was stricken out.

Nestell said he objected to members

(Continued on last page.)

SUCCESS HOPED BY NEW TACTIC

Administration Leaders Change Ship Purchase Measure Program; Yield to Motion of Clarke.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Administration senators agreed today it would be impossible to recommit the ship purchase bill with instructions for its modification and decided their only course is to get an amended bill before the senate is to yield to Senator Clarke's motion to recommit the bill to the commerce committee.

They then will press Senator Gore's motion to discharge the committee from consideration of a substitute bill containing amendments satisfactory to Progressive and Republican senators. They are confident Senators Norris, Kenyon and LaFollette will vote for the motion. Senator Newlands also will be here and they expect to carry that motion without the aid of the vice president.

Determination to resort to this program was reached when the word came today that Senator Smith could not return in time to aid the Democrats in their struggle for the bill. Without his vote Senator Fletcher's motion to recommit with instructions would be defeated by a majority of one.

What will be the fate of the bill after it has been returned to the stage of general debate next week is still problematical. Several Democratic leaders declare the fight will continue until March 4 without cessation if the Republican opposition continues. Republican leaders gave renewed assurances that no quarter could be expected.

The case of Frank Marvin against O. P. Atchison, in which Marvin is suing to have the deed to certain property from Martha B. Atchison to O. P. Atchison, her son, set aside on the grounds that he held a prior claim against Mrs. Atchison and that the transfer of real estate was with the intent of defeating his claim, took a sudden turn in district court before Judge Oldfield today when attorneys for Atchison attempted to show that Marvin's claim, a note for \$1,000, was fraudulent.

Witnesses were introduced who testified that the paper on which the note was written, bearing a date in the year 1902, was not manufactured until the year 1909. The strenuous objections of the plaintiff's attorneys as to the competency of the witnesses were overruled by the court as it was shown that each had had much experience in the handling of paper. The witnesses testifying on this question were G. Walker of the Western Bank Supply company; H. W. Beddoe of the Western Newspaper Union and S. R. Warden of the Warden Printing company.

DEATH TO FAIR BILL

Muskogee Bill Scheduled to be Reported Unfavorably to House Today; a Minority Report is Probable.

The Muskogee fair bill is scheduled to be reported unfavorably to the house sometime this afternoon by the committee on appropriations. Thirteen members of the committee favor killing the bill. Four members have signified their intention of bringing out a minority report favoring passage of the bill.

It is believed that a majority of the members of the house are opposed to the fair bill.

It is said that some of the friends of the bill offered to reduce the appropriation in the bill to \$2,500 if the committee would report the measure favorably.

SPANISH UNEMPLOYED AND THEIR FAMILIES SUFFERING

MADRID, via Paris, Feb. 6.—Workingmen and their families throughout Spain are suffering much distress because of the increasing lack of employment. Conditions are especially bad in the provinces of Huelva and Almeria.

Farmers in the Canary islands who are threatened with famine as the result of an embargo on the export of fruit have protested vigorously against an increase in the price of bread.

WILL OPEN AS "PROHIBITION" BILL PASSES

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 6.—Governor G. W. Hayes signed the statewide prohibition bill at 11:30 o'clock this morning after it had been passed as amended by the house yesterday and now effective prohibits the granting of further saloon licenses for 1915, but does not disturb those already granted.

Forestalling the effect in Lincoln county, Judge Joe Ash granted the petition of Little Rock saloonmen for license at 10:30 o'clock, forty minutes before the measure was signed by the governor. Fifty saloons opened immediately.

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TO PROBE INTO ACTS OF WELCH

Resolution By Testerman and Headley Calls For Committee Investigation.

OBJECTION MADE BY DURANT

Insurance Department Will Be Subject to Scrutiny If Measure Carries.

State Insurance Commissioner A. L. Welch will be subjected to a probe by a legislative committee if a house resolution introduced today by Representative Tony Testerman of Noble county and Henry W. Hendley of Kay county is passed by the house.

Testerman moved the adoption of the resolution but W. A. Durant of Duran

WILL CLAIMANT DEAD

Houston Man Who Alleged He Was Heir to Multi-Millionaire Dies in Tank.

HOUSTON, Tex., Feb. 6.—T. S. Earle, who claimed the estate of the late multi-millionaire Francis A. Ogden, who died in 1910, was found dead in a water tank at his home this morning. Earle was a shipowner by occupation. The probate court had rejected the will as offered but his counsel was pursuing an appeal.

After investigation Justice McPhee said returned a verdict of suicide. Earle's wife awoke at 5 a.m. to find him missing and after a search lasting some hours his body was found in an iron tank at the rear of the house. His night shirt was lying on the rear porch and the body was nude.

Earle was a native of New York and had worked in many newspaper offices but for 14 years past he had been identified with daily papers in Houston. While the will presented by Representative Tony Testerman of Noble county and Henry W. Hendley of Kay county is passed by the house.

Testerman moved the adoption of the resolution but W. A. Durant of Duran

objected to its immediate consideration and it went over into the senate until Monday. The resolution calls for the appointment by the speaker, subject to approval of the house, of a committee of nine house members to be ex officio chairman to make an investigation of the state insurance department. The committee is directed to investigate the conduct of the office, the expenditures of money, number of employees and their salaries, the official acts and orders of the state insurance commissioners relating to various insurance and adjustment bureaus and all other matters pertaining to the office.

The probe committee is to serve without pay except that its members are to be paid their necessary and actual expenses and is to have plenary powers. The committee is instructed to report before the end of the present session and to proceed without delay to the investigation.

The Testerman resolution, while originating from the Republican side of the house, has some Democratic backing and its friends believe it has a good chance of being adopted. Much opposition developed against Insurance Commissioner Welch during the last primary campaign and charges were freely made and published at that time alleging favoritism to certain insurance companies. Those back of the resolution claim to have gathered (Continued on last page.)

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SENATE PASSES EMERGENCY LAW

Oil Conservation Bill Is Passed With Only Six Votes Against It In Senate, But Relief Is Doubtful.

With only six votes against the measure, the oil conservation bill was passed finally in the senate today just before that body adjourned until Monday. The bill is that by Davidson of Tulsa, Sutherland of the senate and Hudson of the house, and it passed finally in the house several days ago.

No important developments on any of Europe's battlefields were revealed in today's dispatches. The fighting in the west yesterday as described in the official communication from Paris amounted merely to scattered artillery duels. In Poland the struggle along the Warsaw front still is to

reach a decision.

The Austrian government announced today that the attacks of the Russians in the Carpathians had broken down and that they had suffered heavy losses. In certain sections of the front the Austrians are on the offensive and the capture of Germar is at war will not be seized.

On the front the Russians are continuing their attacks on the western front, and they compare these attacks with those delivered by General von Hindenburg in the early weeks of the war when six corps of German soldiers were rushed toward France.

From Skirmish southward to Radom and Kielce there have been scattered artillery engagements. Farther south of this line Austro-German forces attempted to take the offensive at Shermin, which is 16 miles to the southwest of Kiev and also at a point near Rzepow, which is 12 miles farther south on the river Nida. At Shermin the Russians, anticipating an attack, destroyed the bridge over the Nida and shelled the enemy from the opposite bank, forcing him to retire. At Rzepow also the Russians report a victory.

At Shabne, which is just to the north of Tarnow in Galicia, the Austrians made an attempt upon the Russian fortifications on the left bank of the Dunajec. They endeavored to approach by means of an elaborate system of trenches, but they were driven off from these shelters at the point of the bayonet.

In the Carpathians, from Dukla Pass to Urszul and thence 50 miles south of Przemysl, the Russians report a continued advance in which they are pushing the enemy to the south. Three thousand prisoners are reported to have been taken in the series of the last three days.

The Journal says the measure will have only two consequences, first (Continued on last page.)

GERMAN SPY FAILS TO BLOW UP FRENCH SHIP

PARIS, Feb. 6.—A plot to blow up the French liner steamer *La Chaise*, which has arrived at Corunna, Spain, from Mexico, was frustrated by a wireless message received aboard the steamer January 19, according to the Journal's Madrid correspondent.

Reports made by officers of the vessel when it landed are said to have stated that the information given in the wireless message was that a man aboard, believed to be a German, intended to destroy the ship. The man was arrested. Five dynamite bombs, the correspondent says, were found in his trunk.

GUN MAKERS HAVE BEATEN PHYSICIANS SAYS CARREL

PARIS, Feb. 6.—A deputation of French army